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NIO/War

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

ARMY review completed

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC # 0758-80

30 January 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Bruce C. Clarke, Jr.
Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

Richard Lehman
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM: Arnold L. Horelick
National Intelligence Officer for USSR-EE

SUBJECT: Monthly Warning Assessment: USSR-EE

1. Soviet Perceptions of and Responses to US Reactions to the Invasion of Afghanistan: Analysts largely agreed that the Soviets may have underestimated somewhat the intensity of the US reaction to the invasion, although in deciding to invade, they surely expected, and were apparently willing to accept, the delay and perhaps the demise of SALT II. They were also willing to accept, but may have similarly underestimated, the public opprobrium which would follow their action.

2. The Soviets probably now expect a protracted period of tension and stalemate in bilateral relations lasting in all likelihood through the Presidential elections. In the near term Moscow will seek publicly to refute US criticism of their actions in Afghanistan, and to place the onus for the deterioration in bilateral relations, and the creation of a crisis atmosphere on deliberate US policies designed to advance US hegemonial interests and to influence domestic electoral politics. It is unlikely that the Soviets expect serious negotiations on arms control issues to resume this year. It is apparent, however, that Moscow seeks to maintain a modicum of openness to detente, as indicated by the Brezhnev/Pravda interview, but in the immediate future will emphasize preservation of cooperative relations with West European countries.

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